



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

To: District Testing Coordinators
From: Mary Ann Snider, Director *MAS*
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Date: August 30, 2005

Re: Accessing the ACCESS Screener (W-APT)

As promised, the ACCESS Screener for English Language Learners is ready to be used. The Screener (W-APT, Access Placement Test) and ancillary materials are available as downloadable files from the WIDA website.

While the Screener itself is not a secure test in the manner of the big ACCESS for ELLs™, we would like to maintain some degree of security with the screener to cut down on unauthorized use of this test. Therefore, we have a login and password system, which is included here for the appropriate person or persons (as determined by you) within districts. Because we do not want to burden districts with an additional obscure password for which they must keep track, we have hit upon a coded system, which combines a generic name and password for each state with district specific information. In other words, the login will be the state name + district number. The password is an identifiable word + the last name of the district testing/assessment coordinator.

This is your district information.

LOGIN:

PASSWORD:

The idea is that people will have to know the code, but once they know that, logging in should be relatively easy. Furthermore, they can request information about how to log in and we can send the code (e.g., = name of state + district number) without having to give out a specific login and password for each district. It will be the responsibility of the person needing access to know their district number and the name (and correct spelling) of the district assessment coordinator. The login page will be linked to a database so that it can check the information for accuracy.

I hope that this does not sound terribly complex. I think that you will find it to be user friendly and not as complicated as it may appear now.

If you have questions please contact Maria Lindia at 222-8494 or email maria.lindia@ride.ri.gov.

Attachments

cc: Todd Flaherty
LEP Directors

Telephone (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.



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ACCESS FOR ELLS™ SCREENER KEY INFORMATION

The Screener is modeled after the ACCESS for ELLS™ secure assessment. Similarities between the two assessments include:

- Assesses all four domains: Listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- Addresses all five WIDA ELP standards
- Individually administered, adaptive speaking test
- Administrator read listening test
- Multiple choice listening and reading items
- Constructed response writing tasks
- Thematically grouped tasks and items
- Individually administered, adaptive kindergarten form

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACCESS FOR ELLS™ AND THE SCREENER

	ACCESS for ELLS™	SCREENER <i>W-APT</i>
Purpose	Annual assessment of ELP progress	Program placement
Administration time	Approximately 2.5 hours	Approximately 1.25 hours
Proficiency level (PL) coverage	Three tiers, each covering 3 levels	All proficiency levels
Organization	Three tiers beginning (A), Intermediate (B), advanced (C)	Two modules: 1) Speaking and PL 1 R/W; 2) PL 2-5 L/R/W
Level of security	Secure, administered during test window	Semi-secure; not for public dissemination but administered as needed
Administration procedures	Individual speaking; group administered (L, R, W) by tier within grade level cluster	Module 1: Individual; Module 2: Individual or small group by grade level cluster
Scoring	Machine scored by MetriTech, Inc. (L, R, W)	Administrator scored on site
Reporting	Reports from MetriTech, Inc.	Locally determined
Speaking	Three parts, 13 tasks total = 15 minutes	One part, five tasks plus 1 R/W task = 8-15 minutes
Listening	6-7 parts, 19-22 items = 30 minutes	Four parts, 13 items = 10 minutes
Reading	6-8 parts, 23-30 items = 40 minutes	Five parts, 15 items = 25 minutes
Writing	Three (Tier A) or four (Tier B-C) parts = 60 minutes	Two parts = 30 minutes

SCREENER DESCRIPTION *(W-APT)*

The Screener for all grade levels except kindergarten has two modules:

- Module 1: Speaking plus a short reading and writing task. All students should be administered Module 1 first. If a student does not score above a 1, do not continue with Module 2. Classify the student as ELP level 1. If the student scores 2 or above, administer Module 2. If the student has no discernable English proficiency, check the No English Proficiency box on the scoring sheet.

ACCESS FOR ELLS™ SCREENER KEY INFORMATION

- Module 2: Listening, reading and writing tasks. Module 2 consists of items addressing ELP proficiency levels 2–4. Students should do as much of the assessment as possible. Scores from Module 2 as well as Module 1 will result in an overall proficiency level determination.

SCREENER SCORING

- Scoring for the speaking section of the screener is identical to the ACCESS for ELLS™. Trained test administrators determine whether a student's response meets or exceeds expectations or not based on a given rubric.
- Scoring for the writing will also be based on a given holistic rubric.
- An answer key on the scoring sheet will be provided for the multiple choice listening and reading items.
- The screener scoring sheet will guide test administrators in scoring and determining overall proficiency levels.

TRAINING FOR SCREENER ADMINISTRATION

Test administrators who have participated in test administration training for the ACCESS for ELLS™ secure assessment will be well qualified to administer the screener; they will merely need to review sound files and writing rubrics and samples. It is recommended, but not required, the Screener administrators be trained for the full ACCESS for ELLS™, which is a more complete and detailed training program. However, the manual, rubrics and sample tasks should be sufficient for reliably administering and scoring the Screener.

The training package for the Screener includes:

- An administrator manual and scripts, including directions for both individual and group administration
- Sample sound files of the speaking tasks
- Sample papers for the writing tasks

ACCESSING THE SCREENER

The Screener and training documents are available as downloadable PDF files through the district's password protected website.

For more information regarding the Screener, ACCESS for ELLS™ or other WIDA Consortium related information, visit the website at www.wida.us or write to info@wida.us.



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

August 26, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, acting on behalf of the WIDA Consortium, grants permission to copy the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test™ (W-APT) and supporting manuals, and/or supporting manuals for the ACCESS for ELLs™ to all schools and state departments of education within WIDA member states for the legitimate use of these materials within the states and schools. These uses include staff development and testing of enrolled students.

The W-APT is a secure test. Anyone viewing items from this test or the ACCESS for ELLs™ should be aware of their obligations under law to maintain the confidentiality of test items and materials. If you have questions about these obligations, please contact Tim Boals, WIDA Director, at 608-267-1290 or timothy.boals@dpi.state.wi.us.

Thank you,

Tim Boals, Ph.D.
WIDA Consortium Director
Office of Educational Accountability

Authorized WIDA states and local schools are in:

Alabama
Delaware
District of Columbia
Illinois
Maine
New Hampshire
Rhode Island ✓
Vermont
Wisconsin